SUMMARIES

"HONOUR AND PRAISE TO GOD"

BOURGEOIS PIETY IN NORTHWESTERN BOHEMIAN TOWNS UP TO THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

Michaela Hrubá

This contribution examines bourgeois wills from selected towns in northwest Bohemia directly subordinated to the king (Louny, Litoměřice, Žatec, Ústí nad Labem) as to their religious significance. A close look is taken at legacies addressed to ecclesiastical institutions, religious brotherhoods and literate societies as well as at charitable legacies. The author thus seeks to solve the question of religious orientation in general and in particular of the importance of religion in the everyday life of urban dwellers. 20 to 30 percent of the testators left estates for the good of their religion. They represented all social strata, with the financially better off, however, proving the least generous. There is a distinct predominance of the female gender among those leaving an estate toward a religious end, which might suggest that the will was a way of making up for the women’s marginal social status in this life.

WHAT EARLY MODERN BOHEMIAN BOURGEOIS LIBRARIES EXPLAIN ABOUT BOHEMIAN AND EUROPEAN CONFESSIONAL TRADITIONS

Olga Fejtová / Jiří Pešek

This study deals with the “consumption” of religious (in the broadest possible sense) literature during the period of confessional division and under pressure from re-Catholicization, and makes use of research work devoted to the history of printing, the book market, and bourgeois reading habits developing in urban Bohemian communities in the 16th and 17th centuries. It focuses on Prague and subordinated towns and is based predominantly on systematic analysis of comprehensive collections of estate inventories and testaments by citizens of Prague and Louny (Laun). In contrast to what Czech literary studies and ecclesiastical history have maintained until now, from about 1520 onwards reading consumption in those towns and cities was characterised by a massive influx of German reformatory literature, whereas interest in the locally established tradition waned. Works of local origin were supplanted in bourgeois libraries by new, reformatory titles which found their readership throughout Central Europe. This process had its fluctuations which were caused by overall economic developments and, more specifically, the evolution of the book market and